

- 16 -

Claims

1. In a carton of the type comprising an open top container and a separate top closure,
5 the top closure comprising an article-retaining arrangement including a plurality of apertures each to receive a portion of an article held within the container, each aperture having a frangible connection to at least one other aperture to facilitate removal of the articles such that in use the removal of the articles breaks the frangible connection, the frangible connection being arranged such that the structural integrity
10 of the carton is substantially maintained upon breaking of the frangible connection.
2. The top closure according to claim 1 wherein the plurality of apertures are arranged in rows, each aperture of a row having a frangible connection to at least one other aperture of the same and or different row.
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3. The top closure according to claim 2 wherein each aperture at the end of a row being connected to an edge of the top closure by a further frangible connection.
4. The top closure according to claim 1 wherein a frangible connection between two
20 apertures intersects a frangible connection between two other apertures.
5. The top closure according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the frangible connection is arrangement such that upon breaking of the frangible connection, no material is removed from the top closure.
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6. The top closure according to claim 1 wherein the plurality of apertures are arranged in three rows, a central row being offset from the other rows and apertures of the central row having a frangible connection to at least two other apertures of each of the other two rows.
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7. A carton of the type comprising an open top container and a separate top closure, the top closure having a plurality of apertures each to receive a portion of an article held

- 17 -

within the container, each aperture having a frangible connection to at least one other aperture to facilitate removal of the articles such that in use the removal of the articles breaks the frangible connection, the frangible connection being arranged such that the structural integrity of the carton is substantially maintained upon removal of the articles, wherein the carton further comprises at least one reinforced handle structure, wherein the or each reinforced handle structure is of multi-ply construction, and wherein at least one ply of the or each handle structure is provided by the open top container and at least one further ply is provided by the top closure.

8. A carton according to claim 7 wherein the open top container comprises side walls, the ply provided by the open top container being struck from one of said side walls.

9. A carton according to either of claims 7 or 8 wherein a ply of the or each reinforced handle structure is provided by a handle panel hinged to the top closure.

10. A carton according to claim 9 wherein the handle panel hinged to the top closure is secured in flat face contact with an inner face of the ply struck from one of said side walls.

11. A carton according to any of claims 7 to 10 wherein a further ply of the reinforced handle structure is provided by the top closure and is hinged to a handle panel.

12. A two-part blank for forming a carton of the type comprising an open top container and a separate top closure, a first part of the blank is erected to form the open top container and a second part of the blank is erected to form a top closure having a plurality of apertures, each to receive a portion of an article held within the container, each aperture having a frangible connection to at least one other aperture to facilitate removal of the articles such that the removal of the articles breaks the frangible connection, the frangible connection being arranged such that the structural integrity of the set up carton is substantially maintained upon breaking of the frangible connection.

- 18 -

- 5 13. A two-part blank for forming a carton of the type comprising an open top container and a separate top closure wherein a first blank is erected to form the open top container and a second blank is erected to form the top closure, the top closure having a plurality of apertures, each to receive a portion of an article held within the container, each aperture having a frangible connection to at least one other aperture to facilitate removal of the articles such that the removal of the articles breaks the frangible connection, the frangible connection being arranged such that the structural integrity of the carton is substantially maintained upon the removal of the articles, wherein the set up carton further comprises at least one reinforced handle structure, 10 wherein the or each reinforced handle structure is of multi-ply construction, and wherein at least one ply of the or each handle structure is provided by the open top container and at least one further ply is provided by the top closure.
- 15 14. A two-part blank according to claim 14 wherein the first-blank comprises side walls wherein at least one ply of the or each reinforced handle structure is struck from one of said side walls.
- 20 15. A two-part blank according to any of claims 14 or 15 wherein the second blank comprises at least one handle panel for forming in a setup carton the ply provided by the top closure.
16. A two-part blank to form a carton according to any of the claims 7 to 11.